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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP **INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Views of Soviet Officers on
Future War

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SUPPLEMENT

50X1-HUM

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE

1. Senior Soviet officers stationed in the Zwickau area have recently inferred in Zwickau that there are at present two distinct lines of thought prevailing in the Soviet General Staff and officer corps. The officers, whose remarks are summarized below, are as follows:

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a. SMA Officers:

Col. Bondarenko
Col. Platov
Maj. Blegenov
Maj. Misha

b. Officers belonging to field formations:

Col. Gembella
Col. Leshitski
Maj. Chomyakov
Maj. Moinsius
Maj. Muravyev
Maj. Zinbaluk

Col. Diez) very cautious
Col. Krilov) in their
Col. Sherenmentyev) conversation

2. These two lines of thought are as follows:

- a. Offensive. Continuation of World Revolution by a military offensive against Western Europe. The adherents to this line of thought are those officers who have been through the Communist Party schools and set the goals of Party doctrine before all military considerations; these senior officers, who have fundamentally little military knowledge, are ambitious, rose quickly during the war and are Party yes-men.
- b. Defensive. The numerically smaller faction, but those officers who have the brains and who have been thoroughly trained in strategical and tactical considerations. This faction sees the only chance of success, in the event of a war against the Western Powers, in withdrawal behind the Vistula, thus affording protection for the Soviet northern flank, which would remain on the defensive. The USSR could then transfer forces to threatened areas along her Southern frontiers and at the same time hold down possible partisans, such as the Germans, Poles, Rumanians, and Bulgarians.

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3. This defensive party agrees that an offensive against the Western Powers would initially result in major military successes and that the Soviet Army would perhaps reach the Atlantic, but that a counter-attack by the Western Powers, the weight of which would only be felt after three or four months, coupled with blockade, an attack by the Japanese (sic) in the Far East and destruction of lines of communication by the superior western air forces, would result in the total defeat of the Soviet Army.
4. The offensive party appears at present to be in the ascendant and in the event of war the dissidents would be caught up in the stream. There is, however, a general war-weariness among Soviet troops in Germany and, as a result, an increasing decline in morale.
5. An eventual offensive is nevertheless frequently discussed by Soviet officers in the Zwickau area, an offensive based solely on the numerical and material superiority of the Soviet Army, which would quickly overwhelm the Western Powers. Two hundred and fifty to three hundred front line divisions with 50,000 tanks, 12,000 gasoline trucks, and 8,000 armored troop-carriers are said to be available for the operation.
6. The plan of attack discussed is as follows:
 - a. Major frontal attack in depth from the Halberstadt-Hildburghausen area towards Cologne, Mannheim, and Karlsruhe.
 - b. Simultaneous strong attacks from the Stendal-Halberstadt area towards Hannover and Hamburg and continuation on the Hannover-Münster axis towards the North Sea.
 - c. Simultaneous occupation of Czechoslovakia and,
 - d. Thrust from the Plauen-Meiningen area towards Nürnberg and Regensburg and break-through to the Swiss frontier.

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